

The Doctrine of Pride

1. Pride in our study is a mental attitude sin of self-esteem and conceit, divorced from Bible Doctrine.

2. Concept:

2.1 Webster defines pride as: "A sense of one's own proper dignity and value, or pleasure and satisfaction taken in one's achievements or possessions."

2.2 Pride only becomes a sin when we fail to recognize that the source of our dignity, value, achievements, and accumulated possessions is God's grace.

2.3 Many Christians pride themselves in their humility and "stoop shouldered" meekness, as they like to think of themselves as suffering for Jesus.

2.4 This facade of humility is not part of God's plan because we are to have a firm confidence in our dignity and assurance of God's watch-care for every aspect of our life, as members of God's forever family.

2.5 Confidence in the Lord, with an associated stability of mind, should characterize the mental attitude of the mature believer:

2.5.1 We are to rest in the fact that everything in our life is part of God's divine decrees and perfectly structured for our maximum well-being.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1Th 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

2.6 There is a difference between being confident and the sin of pride.

2.6.1 This difference has nothing to do with overt appearances of either beleaguered self-denigration and/or confident manifest self-approval.

2.7 The finite difference is the source of your self-esteem, i.e., is the source God, or you?

3. Pride was the original sin of Satan and therefore pride relates to the fall.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14: 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Isa 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the, man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

Isa 14:17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

4. Pride is also a human sin and is listed first in those seven sins that God is said to hate.

Pro 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Pro 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Pro 6:18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Pro 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

4.1 The seven are:

Arrogance,

those who malign others and gossip,

murderers,

those who sit around indulging their mental attitude sins-thinking evil,

those who reject authority,

those who commit perjury,

and those who run around sowing discord among the brethren.

5. Since personal sin is not an issue in salvation, the sin of arrogance is deeply involved in the judgment of the unbeliever.

5.1 It takes preposterous arrogance to think man could ever do anything acceptable to God.

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Rom 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Psa 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

Mic 7:2 The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

Mic 7:3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up.

Mic 7:4 The best of them is as a briar: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

Mat 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

Mat 19:17 And he said unto him, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

Rom 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

6. Therefore pride is the single impediment to man's salvation, as he rests in his own dignity, self-esteem and self-perception of his own worth, usually relative worth.

2Co 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

7. Because of our hopeless condition and the total depravity of man, God took Care of the sin problem for all and then made sure everyone got the word, clearly understood the Word and left the Word with them to reject or accept.

7.1 The Holy Spirit makes both salvation doctrine and, after salvation, the whole realm of doctrine clear but only to the positive believer.

Joh 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

Joh 16:8 "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"

Joh 16:9 "Of sin, because they believe not on me;"

Joh 16:10 "Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;"

Joh 16:11 "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."
Joh 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

8. As Paul teaches in his second letter to the church at Corinth; the self-righteous man usually compares his righteousness with that of others, ergo, it is often the unbeliever's own relative worth that impresses him or her.

9. When a human is positive to God he will receive, somehow, someday God's plan of salvation. This is made clear in several Scriptures. For example:

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles ...

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Rom 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

10. Effectively then pride or arrogance is the basis for man's condemnation, and his failure to accept God's grace provision on the cross.

10.1 Pride like all sin is to be avoided in time if we are to become temporally sanctified.

Pro 16:5 Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

11. Discipline seems to be the order of the day for those who are habitually proud.

Psa 10:2 In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises.

Psa 10:3 He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD.

Psa 10:4 In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Psa 10:5 His ways are always prosperous; he is haughty and your laws are far from him; he sneers at all his enemies.

Psa 10:6 He says to himself, "Nothing will shake me; I'll always be happy and never have trouble."

Psa 10:7 His mouth is full of curses and lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue.

Psa 10:8 He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent, watching in secret for his victims.

12. The sin of pride was often the basis for the judgment of Israel.

Isa 9:9 And all the people shall know, even Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria, that say in the pride and stoutness of heart,

Isa 9:10 The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycamores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars.

Isa 9:11 Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together;

Isa 9: 12 The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

13. Pride rejects the fact that it is Jesus Christ who controls history.

Dan 4:37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Psa 119:21 You rebuke the arrogant, who are cursed and who stray from your commands.

14. There are many New Testament passages that tell us to avoid the sin of pride.

Mat 23:5 "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,"

Mat 23:6 "And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, "

Mat 23:7 "And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi."

Mat 23:8 "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren."

Mar 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,"

Mar 7:22 "Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:"

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Rom 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Rom 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, "**proud**," boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

1Co 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Jam 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1Jo 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

15. Pride is a terrible sin and one to be avoided.

16. Doctrine in the soul helps to insulate against the sin of pride.

17. In our age of the Church it is not unusual to find congregations rejecting the authority of their right pastor-teacher and in their arrogance they assume they really do not need a pastor-teacher to grow.

Heb 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1Pe 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

1Pe 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

1Pe 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ordinary believers, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to one another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1Pe 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

18. Pride stores up discord and strife.

Pro 28:25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall prosper.

19. Rightly dividing the Word requires the Pastor to teach the truth concerning the sin of pride and the difference between confidence and pride.

20. Conclusion

20.1 Paul introduces his teaching of liberty versus license with a discussion of pride and arrogance.

1Co 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

1Co 8:2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.

20.2 Verses one, two and three serve as an introduction to a problem in Corinth.

20.3 Paul makes the point that knowledge on occasion leads to pride.

20.4 Christians are not exempt; there is often a tendency on the part of Christians to use doctrine in their soul as a source of prideful arrogance and condescension.

20.5 We sometimes look down our noses at our brothers and sisters in Christ who have less doctrine.

20.6 Given our human frailty our assessment of self is often wrong; we sometimes think or speak of another as being inferior, not as smart or not as spiritual.

20.7 Whether our judgments are right or wrong is not the issue. Paul makes clear we are our brother's keeper and have no business judging him or her.

20.8 What we are to do instead is to love them with Agape; the royal family honor code demands we respect our Christian brethren as fellow members of the body of Christ, each of whom is absolutely essential and without whom we are incomplete.

20.9 There is a fine line between the sin of pride and being confident.

20.10 It takes great and preposterous arrogance to think man could ever do anything acceptable to God.

Rom 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;
Rom 3:11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.
Rom 3:12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

20.11 Effectively then pride or arrogance is the basis for man's condemnation, and his failure to accept God's grace provision on the cross.

20.12 Little wonder Satan uses pride as his number one temptation to create schisms in the Body of Christ.

21. The Lord teaches His disciples in Mar 9:30-37 that there is no room in the Kingdom of Heaven for pride. To enter one must become like a trusting child.

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Mar 9:30 They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were,

Mar 9:31 because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise."

Mar 9:32 But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.:

Mar 9:33 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?"

Mar 9:34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Mar 9:35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Mar 9:36 He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them,

Mar 9:37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

22. So in closing our study of pride we must keep in mind the 7 deadly sins and the relative prepotency established in Pro 6:16-19.

Pro 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
Pro 6:17 **A proud look**, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Pro 6:18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Pro 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Pro 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Pro 6:21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.